

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A ~~self-contained~~ public access trash compaction system, the system comprising a ~~freestanding~~ cabinet, a trash compaction mechanism within the cabinet, the cabinet including a trash compaction compartment, ~~the cabinet having a front surface~~, a trash loading vestibule, ~~the vestibule projecting forwardly of the front surface~~, ~~the vestibule including a pair of side walls~~, the vestibule defining a downwardly sloped passageway ~~having a continuous smooth upper surface~~, the vestibule having an entrance and a discharge outlet, the entrance being at a higher elevation than the discharge outlet, a trash loading carriage pivotally connected to the vestibule ~~adjacent a lower edge of the entrance~~, the carriage including a first panel[[,]] ~~and a second panel~~, ~~the second panel being positioned between the side walls~~, ~~the first panel comprising a lid which blocks the vestibule entrance when the lid is closed and the carriage is in a first position~~, ~~the and a second panel blocking[[,]] which blocks the discharge outlet when the carriage is pivoted to a second position wherein the lid is open[[,]] wherein the vestibule entrance is opened and wherein trash may be deposited upon the carriage, whereby when the carriage is pivoted to return to the first position, the trash load deposited on the carriage is discharged through the discharge outlet and into the trash compaction compartment for compaction by the trash compaction mechanism.~~

2. (Original) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the trash loading carriage is biplanar and unitary.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ~~vestibule projects forwardly of a front cabinet surface~~ comprises a panel.

7. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ~~downwardly sloped passageway includes a curved upper surface of the passageway extends along a curve, whereby flow of trash through the discharge outlet~~ is facilitated.

8. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ~~vestibule includes a pair of side walls, the carriage being positioned between the side walls, the carriage including~~ includes laterally projecting journals, each journal being seated in a bearing surface of a side wall, whereby the carriage pivots between the first position and the second position.

9. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 further including a trash container, the trash container being positioned in the trash compaction compartment, the trash ~~load discharged into the trash compaction compartment~~ being deposited in the trash container, the compaction mechanism including a ram, the ram being actuated to compress the ~~deposited trash deposited~~ in the container.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 further including a battery power supply operatively connected to the trash compaction mechanism, whereby the cabinet may be strategically positioned in a public place remote from an electrical outlet.

12. (Original) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 further including a controller for controlling the operation of the compaction mechanism and a sensor for detecting when the deposited trash is in need of compaction, the sensor being operatively connected to the controller, the controller automatically operating the compaction mechanism when the deposited trash is in need of compaction.

13. (Original) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 further including a controller, a sensor for determining whether the volume of compacted trash

within the cabinet has reached a predetermined level, the controller being operatively coupled to the sensor, the system further including a signal device for indicating that compacted trash is in need of collection, the signal device being operatively coupled to the controller, the controller determining when the trash load has reached the predetermined level and actuating the signal device upon such occurrence.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system for use by the general public, the system comprising a freestanding cabinet, a trash compaction mechanism within the cabinet, the cabinet including a trash compaction compartment, a trash loading vestibule, the vestibule including a trash loading entrance and a discharge outlet, the discharge outlet for discharging trash into the trash compaction compartment, the trash loading entrance being at a higher elevation than the discharge outlet, a lid selectively closing the trash loading entrance, a flange extending along an edge of the lid and into the vestibule when the lid is positioned to close the trash loading entrance, the flange precluding access to the vestibule when the lid is partially opened, a panel selectively closing the discharge outlet when the lid is positioned to open the trash loading entrance and selectively opening the discharge outlet when the lid is positioned to close the trash loading entrance, whereby a trash load placed in the vestibule will be discharged into the trash compaction compartment when the lid is closed.

17. (Currently amended) A public access trash compaction system for use by the general public as constructed in accordance with claim 16 wherein the vestibule extends forwardly of a front panel of the cabinet.

18. (Original) A public access trash compaction system for use by the general public as constructed in accordance with claim 16 further including a trash loading carriage, the carriage comprising the lid and the panel.

19. (Original) A public access trash compaction system for use by the general public as constructed in accordance with claim 18 wherein the carriage is mounted for pivotal movement relative to the vestibule.

20. (Currently amended) A method of providing safe access by the general public to a trash compactor for the deposit of trash, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a self-contained freestanding trash compactor having a ~~normally closed~~ trash loading entrance and a ~~normally open~~ trash discharge outlet for discharging trash into a trash compaction compartment,

b) providing a confined trash passageway between the trash loading entrance and the trash discharge outlet, the passageway being dimensioned to accommodate a trash load of a predetermined maximum size,

c) providing a lid for opening and closing the trash loading entrance, the lid including a flange extending into the trash loading entrance when the trash loading entrance is closed,

c) d) opening the lid to access the trash loading entrance and closing the trash discharge outlet while blocking access to the trash passageway with the flange when the lid is partially opened,

d) e) depositing a trash load in the passageway, and

f) discharging the trash load into the trash compaction compartment after closing the trash loading entrance and opening the trash discharge outlet.

21. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 1 further including a flange extending along an edge of the lid, the flange extending into the passageway when the lid is partially opened, the flange for preventing access into the passageway when the lid is partially opened.

22. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 21 wherein the flange extends along an upper edge of the lid, whereby trash deposited upon the carriage is guided by the flange into the discharge outlet when the carriage is pivoted from the second position to the first position.

23. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 22 wherein the upper surface of the passageway is curved and the flange is matingly curved.

24. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 9 wherein the ram is positioned at a elevation higher than the discharge outlet when trash is discharged into the trash compaction compartment.

25. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 18 wherein the flange extends along an upper edge of the lid, whereby trash deposited upon the carriage is guided by the flange into the discharge outlet when the carriage is pivoted from the first position to the second position.

26. (New) A public access trash compaction system as constructed in accordance with claim 11 wherein the cabinet comprises at least one panel having a sloped surface, the sloped surface carrying a solar panel, the solar panel being operatively connected to the battery for charging the battery.